

FORM NO. 35-85
NOV 1951

CLASSIFIED MESSAGE

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCES METHOD USE EXEMPT FROM
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
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15 JAN 53

SECURITY INFORMATION

IN 8 29063

TO:

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

FROM:

BONN

PRIORITY

ACTION: DEPARTMENT OF STATE

1718Z 16 JAN 53

INFORMATION: FI, FI/STC, FI/RQM 3, PP/PYD 2, PP/PAD, WE 2, EE 3, FI/RI 2

NR: 3270

CONTROL: 5587

SENT DEPARTMENT 3270, REPEATED LONDON 650, PARIS 884.

SIX EX-NAZIS ARRESTED BY BRITISH IN DUSSELDORF AND HAMBURG AREAS TODAY WERE MEMBERS OF EXTREMIST GAULEITER CIRCLE. BRITISH INTELLIGENCE REPORTS INDICATE GROUP IN RECENT MONTHS HAS BEEN DEVELOPING ITS CONNECTIONS IN TWO DIVERSE DIRECTIONS; THE RIGHT WING OF FEDERAL COALITION AND DIVERSE NEUTRALIST AND PRO-RUSSIAN GROUPS OPPOSING CONTRACTUALS. THEY ALSO MAINTAINED CONTACT WITH VARIOUS RIGHT-WING EXTREMISTS AS KARL-HEINZ PRIESTER, AUGUST HAUFELTER, HANS ULRICH RUDER (REPEAT RUDEL)*, AND EX-GENERAL RAMCKE. BRITISH INTELLIGENCE REPORTS INDICATE NO (REPEAT NO) SUDDEN INCREASE OF STRENGTH IN GAULEITER CIRCLE AND REPORTED GROUP HAS NOT (REPEAT NOT) COMMITTED ITS SUPPORT TO OTHER GROUPS UNTIL SURE OF PROSPECTS OF SUCCESS.

ARREST CAME AS COMPLETE SURPRISE TO PUBLIC AND AS YET NO (REPEAT NO) NEWSPAPER REACTIONS HAVE APPEARED ALTHOUGH STORY IS BEING HEAVILY PLAYED BY WIRE SERVICES AND CORRESPONDENTS.

KIRKPATRICK INFORMED ME SOME WEEKS AGO THAT BRITISH WERE CONCERNED ABOUT ACTIVITIES OF GROUP AND POSSIBILITY THAT THEY MIGHT SUCCEED IN PENETRATING RIGHT-WING GROUP OF FDP. HE SAID A THOROUGH INVESTIGATION WAS BEING CONDUCTED AND ASKED ME TO SAY NOTHING ABOUT IT UNTIL HE WAS IN A POSITION TO GIVE MORE SPECIFIC INFORMATION. LAST NIGHT WARD TOLD ME (AND INFORMED CHANCELLOR AND FRENCH) THAT ARRESTS HAD BEEN ORDERED BY LONDON AND WOULD BE MADE UNDER RESERVED POWERS OF OCCUPATION STATUTE AS IT WAS FEARED IF GERMANS MADE ARRESTS UNDER TREASON LAW IT WOULD BE MORE DIFFICULT TO OBTAIN EVIDENCE OF CONSPIRACY. HE ASKED THAT I KEEP INFORMATION TO MYSELF UNTIL TODAY AS BRITISH SECURITY OFFICIALS COULD NOT (REPEAT NOT) BE SURE THAT TIMING AND OTHER DETAILS MIGHT HAVE TO BE CHANGED AT LAST MINUTE.

FOR COORDINATION WITH State

SECURITY INFORMATION

COPY NO.

26 Feb. 53.

IT IS FORBIDDEN TO MAKE A COPY OF THIS MESSAGE

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SECRET

PAGE TWO
IN S 29063

NR: 3270

WARD SENT ME WORD TODAY TO SAY CHANCELLOR, WHEN INFORMED OF PROPOSED MOVE, RAISED NO (REPEAT NO) OBJECTIONS AND SAID HE UNDERSTOOD REASONS FOR IT. WARD IS SENDING ME MEMORANDUM GIVING MORE INFORMATION ON REASONS FOR ARRESTS. HE REPORTS ARRESTS WERE MADE QUIETLY AND NO (REPEAT NO) DISTURBANCES CREATED. I AM SOMEWHAT CONCERNED LEST PRESS PLAY OF THIS INCIDENT BE IN EXAGGERATED TERMS. I HOPE THAT IF QUERIED DEPARTMENT WILL BE CAUTIOUS IN ITS RESPONSES UNTIL AT LEAST WE HAVE FURTHER INFORMATION PROMISED BY BRITISH ON WHAT THEY HAVE DISCOVERED. IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN WHETHER THEY HAVE HOLD OF SOMETHING WHICH LEADS INTO SOVIET WORLD OR WHETHER GAULEITER CIRCLE IS OF LOCAL AND LIMITED SIGNIFICANCE.

REBER

NOTE: MR. CONGER (GER) INFORMED 5:50 P.M. 1/15/53 DES.

NOTE: * AS RECEIVED.

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

ACTION: GER

INFO : SS, G, EUR, OLI, CIA, OSD, ARMY, AIR, NAVY, SAM, P, PSB, I

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